

# COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

## TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



### **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Government Reform Committee to Review Post-Katrina Emergency Preparedness Across Nation**

*Are Other Vulnerable Cities Ready?  
What Lessons Have They Learned from Katrina?*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – House Government Reform Committee Chairman Tom Davis (R-VA) announced today the committee will begin its oversight of Hurricane Katrina-related issues with a hearing next week that compares and contrasts emergency plans in other major cities potentially facing similarly catastrophic events.

**What:** Government Reform Committee hearing: “**Back to the Drawing Board: A First Look at Lessons Learned from Katrina**”

**When:** Thursday, September 15, 2005, 10 a.m.

**Where:** Room 2154, Rayburn House Office Building

**Davis released the following statement on the hearing, which will be the first in a series at the full committee and subcommittee levels in response to Hurricane Katrina:**

“My staff and I have spent much of the past week examining the aftermath of this tragic natural disaster. It has become increasingly clear that local, state, and federal government agencies failed to meet the needs of the residents of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Now it’s our job to figure out why, and to make sure we are better prepared for the future.

“It’s critical that we conduct our oversight in a manner that does not interfere with the life-and-death work being done. We all agree that many questions need to wait; no one wants to take people away from the massive job at hand. But I also think some

issues can and should be looked at now. Our members want to begin doing oversight, and the American people are demanding it as well.

“For example, we can begin contributing to the dialogue by looking at emergency plans in other major cities – cities that potentially face similar catastrophic events, natural or manmade. This could serve two purposes without disrupting relief and rescue efforts: it could make sure others are better prepared, and it could help us better prepare for the subsequent work we’ll be doing specific to Katrina.

“Regardless of the type of threat facing our major cities – hurricane, earthquake, dirty bomb – Katrina has forced officials across the nation to re-examine their disaster plans, and ask if they’re as solid as they previously may have thought.

This process of reevaluation will be the focus of our committee’s first post-Katrina hearing.”

**The Committee will announce the specific cities to be reviewed, and its witness roster, as soon as possible.**

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